

PATENT

Remarks

This communication responds to the Office Action dated March 31, 2005, wherein claims 1-4, 6-10 and 18-30 were rejected as being either anticipated by, or unpatentable over, prior art, and claims 5, 11-15 and 17 were held to be allowable.

Applicants are pleased to acknowledge the Examiner's holding that claims 5, 11-15 and 17 are allowable. In view thereof, claims 2-4 and 6-10 have been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 5. Claim 10 has also been amended with regard to a formal matter.

Claims 23-30 have been canceled.

Claims 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pfaff (US-6,016,254). Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, a socket connector comprising a base carrying a contact, and a socket cover releasably connected to the base, the socket cover having a rigid top surface containing peripheral heat transfer apertures configured to permit heat to transfer to the contact.

The Examiner relies on Pfaff for showing a socket connector comprising a base 14 carrying contacts 18. The Examiner points to element 12 in Pfaff as being a socket cover. Applicant respectfully disagrees. According to Pfaff, element 12 is a "package" of the type that includes a circuit chip. This "package" is mounted in the socket connector and is electrically connected by the contacts 18 to a circuit board. See the description at column 3, lines 3-23. Pfaff does not disclose a socket cover.

To the extent that package 12 can be considered to be a socket cover, this "cover" does not have a single aperture. The Examiner points to column 3, lines 60-66 of Pfaff, but these lines do not mention of any type of aperture. These lines describe that the top face of the package (except for peripheral portions trapped under ledges 36, 38) is exposed, thereby leaving as much as 95% of the top face available for connection with a heat sink. The other 5% of the top face is covered by the ledges 36, 38. There is no teaching or suggestion anywhere in Pfaff that the package 12 has an aperture.

For these reasons, claim 18 and the claims dependent thereon should be allowable over Pfaff.

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The claims presented are believed to be allowable. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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